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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Honoring the struggle, sacrifice, and triumph of the LGBTQ+ movement  
in Georgia.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia submitted the following resolution; which was  
referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

# RESOLUTION

Honoring the struggle, sacrifice, and triumph of the  
LGBTQ+ movement in Georgia.

Whereas LGBTQ+ individuals in Georgia have historically  
encountered bigotry, discrimination, hatred, and violence,  
but have struggled tirelessly to obtain equal rights and  
protection of the law;

Whereas, in 1833, the Georgia General Assembly codified a  
prohibition on same-sex relations, threatening LGBTQ+  
individuals with harsh punishment for expressing their  
love;

Whereas, in 1953, 20 gay men were arrested in a sting oper-  
ation at the Atlanta Public Library, continuing a pattern

of targeted action by members of law enforcement against the gay community;

Whereas, in 1969, Atlanta police initiated a raid on a movie theater known to be frequented by gay individuals;

Whereas such events inspired young generations of gay Georgians to rally in a public manner to promote their cause to end discrimination and guarantee equality;

Whereas, in 1971, the inaugural Atlanta Gay Pride Parade was organized by the Georgia Gay Liberation Front, providing an outlet for the LGBTQ+ community to openly display their pride and embrace of gay culture;

Whereas, in 1972, the first Metropolitan Community Church, an LGBTQ+-affirming Protestant denomination, opened in Atlanta;

Whereas, in 1972, then-Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell appointed Charlie St. John as the city's first LGBTQ+ liaison to the city government as part of the Community Relations Commission;

Whereas, in 1974, activist Bill Smith founded the Atlanta Barb, Georgia's first newspaper dedicated to covering the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas, in 1976, the Atlanta Gay Center, a community organization that provided direct support and resources to the LGBTQ+ community, was founded and opened;

Whereas, in 1978, a bigoted, antigay rally in Georgia drew a crowd of 4,000 people;

Whereas, in 1979, thousands of Georgians joined in the first national March on Washington for gay rights;

Whereas, by 1981, the HIV/AIDS crisis had come to the forefront of national attention partly due to the work of

the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to study and treat the disease;

Whereas, in 1983, AID Atlanta was formed as an educational and service organization to educate people on the realities of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and provide support for those suffering from the disease;

Whereas, throughout the epidemic, gay individuals in Georgia faced large-scale discrimination and bigotry;

Whereas, in 1983, the Atlanta Campaign for Human Rights was founded, the legacy of that organization is now carried on by Georgia Equality, with a mission to “advance fairness, safety, and opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities” across the State;

Whereas, in 1984, the Atlanta city government declared the city’s first “Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Day”;

Whereas, in 1985, Congregation Bet Haverim opened as Georgia’s first LGBTQ+ welcoming synagogue, to serve the expansive interests of the State’s LGBTQ+ Jewish community;

Whereas, in 1986, a challenge to Georgia’s repressive laws criminalizing same-sex relations in *Bowers v. Hardwick* reached the Supreme Court;

Whereas, in 1988, Southern Voice, an LGBTQ+ newspaper dedicated to serving the community through breaking news and thoughtful analysis, was founded in Atlanta;

Whereas, in 1988, then-Mayor Maynard Jackson became the first Atlanta mayor to attend an LGBTQ+ pride event;

Whereas the 1990s saw a rapid influx of LGBTQ+ individuals into Atlanta in search of acceptance, understanding, diversity, and equality;

Whereas, in 1997, a domestic terrorist injured five people by bombing the Otherside Lounge, a lesbian bar in Atlanta;

Whereas, in 1997, Cathy Woolard became the first openly gay individual elected in Georgia, as a member of the Atlanta City Council;

Whereas, in 1998, the Georgia Supreme Court struck down State law prohibiting same-sex relations as unconstitutional;

Whereas, in 2003, Fulton County became the first county in the State to recognize domestic benefits for residents in same-sex unions;

Whereas, in 2015, the Supreme Court decided in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that same-sex marriage should be legal and recognized across the country, representing a massive victory for LGBTQ+ Americans nationwide;

Whereas Georgia is home to an estimated 425,000 individuals identifying as members of the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas public opinion polls find that a majority of Georgia residents support same-sex marriage and support implementing antidiscrimination laws based on sexual orientation; and

Whereas there are currently no Georgia State laws to protect against LGBTQ+ discrimination in family services, housing, banking, public accommodations, health care, and education: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2               (1) honors the struggle, sacrifice, and triumph
- 3       of LGBTQ+ individuals in Georgia;

1           (2) recognizes the historical significance that  
2       Georgia has played in the LGBTQ+ movement; and  
3           (3) recognizes that further work is necessary to  
4       guarantee equality and liberty for all LGBTQ+ in-  
5       dividuals both in Georgia and the United States.